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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for hey must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Tartarinus Africanus.

Dr. LYMAN ABBOTT'S instructor in nstitutional law has turned up again in British East Africa and the de-He was "carrying on an imated conversation" (monologue). He was followed reverently by a small army of jackals and a detachment of warthogs, and undoubtedly expressed such satisfaction with the forcible dental arrangements of the latter. "Several herds of almost tame Thomsonii garelies" were "well fenced in" and thereby protected from the Wild Huntsman. The fowls of the air were less fortunate The Colonel brought down two Egyptian geese." This seems inhuman and unfraternal, but we are to record, not to judge. Besides, the Australian Arunta are known to eat their totem at certain times. We are told, but refuse to believe, that TARTARINUS indulged me "effective shooting" among the gulls. For eight years these innocents have flocked around him in innumerable ititudes. Why should he butcher the faithful? The pelican, the common pelican, that emblem of piety, fell indeed before that falcon eye. The crane bent his long legs and wept in vain for mercy. The scarlet gumpo the imperial loobie, even that rarest of African birds the concatenated hoohoo. surrendered at sight and before TAR-TARINUS had time to take it. No wonder Dr. ABBOTT's professor of constifutional law was "much pleased." Happy, happy TARTARINUS! And yet

why will the correspondents continue to "lie" about him? For instance: Colonel ROOSEVELT occupied the bow."

He occupied the whole boat: rowed steered, bailed, and gave lessons in navigation to the boatmen swimming at the stern. For another instance:

He inquired into all the results of the vari our experiments in the crossing of stock."

Impossible! What has he to learn! No other man has made such successful experiments in double crossing stock, and bonds too, for that matter.

One Danger Averted.

It is with great relief we learn that roved that Dr. Cook has put the be expected with north pole in pickle there is no danger whenever attempted.

Fate, however, has been kind in this aviators. Arctic incident and saved Americans from themselves. If Cook found it, they need not find it; there is no obligation on them to lead the pole and the tion. That affliction is escaped.

genial statesman SETH Low!

The Thunderer on Art.

All sorts of men have had a chance to and men about town, and the Speaker of the House of Commons has been summoned in his official capacity to give evidence. With Mr. G. BERNARD SHAW, 'leaders" with which it has enriched

the discussion. by Mr. WALKLEY, its capable dramatic critic, in his testimony before the com- will fly over water, it will be over a har- of every American that has the price. mittee. Mr. WALKLEY expressed his bor crowded with the warships and ROCKEFELLER outdates the feudal sysopinion that the importance of art, and merchant marine of many nations. tem. STEVE ELKINS has a Hispanoespecially of the drama, is overrated How far the currents of the air will be Mauresque name, and springs originally, nowadays, and that we take such things affected by these conditions time alone too solemnly, an opinion which we can tell; moreover, the effect upon belongs to the younger branch of the fancy he is not alone in holding. Edi- the currents of the air of a teeming great mediaval house of FEUFOLLETS torially, however, the Times finds it industrial city must be reckoned with. necessary to modify this opinion: "No and in this great game of aerial golf doubt he was thinking mainly of the there will be among many unusual grandeur. And so on. All we are art which is concerned with the expres- hazards the three great bridges that sprung from ancient kings, if we have sion of ideas and which is supposed span the East River. to be important because it tries to ex- Possibly no part of the coming cele-

less, as the Times assures us, of "popu-

"If music had not been a popular art for cen turies in Germany there could never have been a choral symphony. If painting had not been a popular art in Italy for centuries MICHELANGELO old never have painted his frescoes on the roof of the Sistine Chanel. If the drama had not been a popular art in England for centuries SHAKE PRINK could never have written 'Hamlet.' The naster and the technique of the master are only possible after generations of obscure and humble effort, which would never have been made unless there had been a popular demand for It."

A statement that lends itself admirably to high school or intercollegiate debate, together with its corollary:

" But art would be still important to the life of man if none of these great masterpieces had been produced, if MICHELANGELO and SHAKESPRARI and BERTHOVEN had never lived; and it would be important because men cannot do without it in its simpler and more popular forms."

Here we regret to find the Times turning away from its homily to deal a swat at the unlucky nineteenth century. That century is not yet ten years dead, but these new writers, born and bred in the twentieth apparently, can think only of its darkness and ignorance. The nineteenth century, it seems, believed that the world was outgrowing art, a belief contrary to all the facts.

"There was just as much popular art as ever erhaps more; only it became bad instead of good The people of this country have as much music as ever they had; only they have music hal tunes instead of folksong. There is abundant rnament on their walls and clothes and objects of daily use: but most of it is machine made. So strong is the instinct of man to ornament every thing connected with his daily life that if he cannot devise good ornament he will always devise bad. That is the artistic instinct which not even the ninetcenth century has been able to suppress, and which, therefore, we may assum to be, like love, as strong as death."

With this the censor, the select committee. Mr. WALKLEY and what the Times thinks he thought fade away to make room for a rhapsody on the future of Britain beautified according to the Times's conception of popular art.

What Next?

The extraordinary performances of the aviators at Reims have naturally stimulated curiosity as to what WILBUR WRIGHT and CURTISS, who have been engaged by the Hudson-Fulton Celebration Commission to give exhibition flights during the celebration, can do to surpass the records recently made in France. Less than their own high standard of achievement they dare not

If the commission had secured the services of less prominent and notable aviators there could reasonably be little expectation in the matter, but WILBUR WRIGHT and CURTISS have few if any equals in their art. No aviator has been more conspicuously identified with the development of the heavier than air machine than WILBUR WRIGHT. To him and his brother the credit is unquestionably due of making the first practical demonstration of the aeroplane, and the first flights which appealed in a large way to the imagination and challenged the admiration of the world were those of WILBUR WRIGHT in France last summer, culminating on the last day of the year in a two hour flight. Until last week this flight remained unsurpassed in duration.

GLENN H. CURTISS in turn has won the international cup and therefore holds as to speed the blue ribbon of aerial racing. Both aviators have demonstrated that a successful flight is no longer a mere matter of chance, but can

of its being foisted on our fellow country- Their coming flights will be under men as a national possession. Into how extraordinary and most stimulating many minds was thrust by the first auspices. Where thousands witnessed report of the Doctor's adventure the the flights at Reims and Fort Myer. terrifying thought that here was another the flights in New York will be witnessed "non-contiguous" territory to be gov- by millions. No more imposing natural erned, administered and legislated for theatre could be suggested for such a at Washington we shall not attempt to spectacle than the harbor of New York, say. The number must have been very and from the banks of its rivers, the streets of its cities and the roofs of Manifest destiny and other enemies the houses countless thousands of eyes of peace and comfort have involved the will follow with eager and expectant United States in numerous troubles. interest the flights of these well known

The conditions, moreover, will put

CURTISS and WRIGHT on their mettle and give them an unexampled opportunity to demonstrate the practical pospolers into the bright ways of civiliza- sibilities of the aeroplane. It is obvious that to fly around a racetrack, however Yet man is born to vain regrets. What remarkable to a generation which less an admirable thing it would be to ap- than ten years ago regarded such an point as Governor-General of the North achievement as beyond possibility, is Pole, with headquarters thereat, that one thing, and to fly over the harbor of a great and populous city, with the inevitable complications of such an environment, is quite another. BLÉRIOT'S Whatever the outcome of the select flight across the Channel probably apcommittee that is inquiring into the pealed more to the imagination of men censorship of plays, the investigation than any other achievement in aviais affording a lot of fun to the members, tion, but it was not so remarkable as the who seem to be taking their task none flight of ORVILLE WRIGHT at Fort Myer, too seriously, and to the public as well, when with a passenger in his biplane he crossed a rough and varied country air their views, authors, actors, critics from Fort Myer to Alexandria and re- of the Springfield Republican, which turn. The varying elevations of the earth, the natural obstructions of trees, buildings and other structures presented a problem of much greater dif-Mr. HALL CAINE, Sir W. S. GILBERT, ficulty than the flight across an even Signer help "coming to the front"? His Sir BEERBOHM TREE and their numer- expanse of water in which the only ous colleagues on the stand, all aware uncertain currents of air were those of the public gaze, brilliant remarks encountered when nearing the cliffs of were to be expected; but the London England. In ORVILLE WRIGHT's flight Times has been as amusing, in a dif- the currents of air were affected by the erent way to be sure, in the solemn varying elevations of the earth and the character of the surface.

The latest contribution of the Times problems will confront the daring avia- and his shirt bosom. the elucidation of a remark dropped fors such as have never hitherto con-

new ideas." This is only fair to bration will be of greater interest or ship them with more than Chinese piety Mr. WALKLEY, who might be hard put value than the results of these attempts and invent them on occasion in quantito conceive of an art that does not ex- to navigate the air in the heart of a ties to suit. populous city. If the aeroplane is more

must sooner or later meet the problems in propulsion which are presented by a great city. Until a motor can be invented upon which absolute reliance can be placed it is obvious that a flight over the roofs of a city would be foolhardy in the extreme, and no reasonable man should expect either CURTISS or WRIGHT to attempt such a flight. What can be reasonably expected is flights over the waters surrounding New York, and these present many interesting and alluring possibilities.

If the aeroplanes start from Governors Island, as has been planned, a flight to the Atlantic Highlands would be equivalent to BLÉRIOT's flight across the Channel. A flight up the Hudson River to Clermont, a distance of 110 miles, would exactly parallel the first voyage of Fulton's steamboat. That took twenty-four hours. If the aeroplane can make the distance at all it could readily be done in three hours. The distance is not greater than that covered by FARMAN in his recent flight at Reims. Another interesting possibility is a complete circuit of Manhat

These flights should be of special interest to the War Department, as they may demonstrate the possible use of the aeroplane in time of war. If New York were blockaded it is conceivable that an aeroplane could do mmense harm to the blockading fleet by the swiftness of its operations and by its destructive possibilities.

One other possibility for surpassing the extraordinary results at Reims is open to both CURTISS and WILBUR WRIGHT. Hitherto the aeroplanes have not ascended above 500 feet, unless LATHAM's altitude above the Channel is to be excepted; but it has been said that there is no mechanical difficulty in going to far greater heights. Here is an easy opportunity for another world's record, and possibly either CURTISS or WRIGHT may leave Governors Island and ascend to a far greater height than has heretofore been attained.

The reputation of both aviators will to some extent depend upon the nature of their achievements at the coming celebration. Neither can afford to dis appoint reasonable expectation. With their movements followed by the representatives of many nations and by ever seen on such an occasion, and with the natural but friendly rivalry which the results at Reims have stimulated beween CURTISS and WRIGHT, it is reasonable to expect some aerial achieve ment in this city which may be another milestone in the ever accelerating march of human progress.

Colonel Bryan Is Not Overcome.

It is not difficult to understand Colonel WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN'S SUPPRISO and regret over the refusal of President TAFT to urge the adoption of an amendmeat to the Constitution providing for the popular election of United States Senators. Mr. TAFT having joyfully followed Colonel BRYAN in his policies in regard to a tax on corporations and an income tax, the Nebraskan had every eason to believe that his victoriou Ohio opponent would gladly go another step toward the destruction of the States, particularly as Mr. TAFT has declared himself to be personally in favor of this particular assault on our present political system.

But Colonel BRYAN is not too surprised, nor is he so fár overcome by regret as se sight of the advert Mr. TAPT's timorous balking. Indeed, Colonel BRYAN never overlooks the advertising value of any possible projection of himself into the affairs of State. He uses Mr. TAFT as Miss GOLDMAN does the police, to keep alive public interest and to attract customers. Of what great value on the Chautauqua circuit must be a letter from the President, no matter what its contents!

So the Colonel weeps for the shortcomings of Mr. TAFT, and mourns, but not in the closet. Weeping and mourning of this kind are valuable commercial assets, and the Colonel is entirely able to see wherein they will not do injury to the Fairview bank account.

Signers.

October 19, 1909, will be a proud and purple day in American annals. The Descendants of the Signers—not of "the pledge," but of the Declaration of Independence-will assemble solemnly and joyfully at Yorktown, Va., commemorate the one hundred and twenty-eighth anniversary of the surrender of Conn. WALLIS, prepare, no doubt, for even higher jinks at the one hundred and thirtieth, and diffuse patriotism and respect for pedigrees and be photographed copiously

A harmless, even a beneficent pro gramme. Not for universes would we have the surly and gallish disposition pretends that "there is no particular reason for the celebration except the desire of the Signers to come to the front." How can a Descendant of a signature can be read there, we suppose, visibly impressed, or in relief on him elsewhere. The light that shines around him, the aurora and the aroma of "blood," the pride of his carriage, the patrician cast of his countenance sign and vouch for him as clearly In the coming flights in this city as the "D. S. D. I." on his signet ring

Thank heaven, a family tree longe conted the aeroplanist. While they than CY SULLOWAY is within the reach we believe, from Tarifa. LA FOLLETTE and EspRits-Follers, not yet extinct if somewhat reduced from their pristine 'the price"; and all as equal American citizens greatly venerate ancestors, wor-

Hail, then, to the austere and august That is the characteristic, neverthe- than a scientific toy or the plaything of brotherhood of Descendants of the Sign-

men who love exceptional hazard, it ers, the trousered or petticoated incarnations of the noble eighteenth century "truth" that all men were created equal Why must these gifts be revealed to Yorktown and hidden from New York? Can't there be a parade of Descendants

on Broadway and the Fifth avenue? We want to look at them merely They are too good for human nature's gress. Will he stand by his views of condaily food. Yes, for everyday use we attitutional questions expressed while on should prefer the Bagmen of Bagdad. the Federal bench, or by their uncongeshould prefer the Bagmen of Bagdad.

The discussion about the ownership of the north pole, where Dr. FREDERICK A Cook says that he raised the Stars and Stripes on April 21, 1908, is not carried or Government officials at Washington with much warmth. The flag must have been blown down, torn into shreds in fact, and every thread of it lost in th polar ice or the Arctic currents long ago The Melville-Bryant cask sent adrift in 1899 is supposed to have been swept past the north pole, within a hundred miles of it, and the cask was picked up thousand of miles away. There is no knowing where the remains of a flag planted at the north pole may be in a winter or two perhaps on the coasts of half a score of

OUR INHOSPITABLE FRONTIER Where Even the Best Tempered Citizen

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It not easy to speak decorously of the experiences the traveller has to endure whe entering this country from Europe. to indorse and approve the entire signed "An Old American."

I have crossed the Atlantic Ocean thirty eight times, travelled extensively, having made seven tours into Africa and six into tiers something like five hundred times, hav ing been in every European country, including Russia, most of them many times each I mention this to show my qualification for speaking of custom house inspection. no country of the world where I have ever been is there any treatment of thos crossing the frontier that will for one moment compare with ours. For annoy ance, trouble, and occasionally an unin tentional insolence, ours is by far the worst I doubt whether even in Russia, when would be possible for travellers to be in-

country When I say insulted "by law," I refer t the requirement of making declaration in connection with the subse search; this search is not primarily to dis cover contraband articles; their or absence is proven logically by the dec laration previously made: the search is solely to try to prove that the passenger the greatest gallery that the world has has lied in making his declaration, and for n

sulted as they by law are on entering this

other purpose. I may add that notwithstanding all th trouble caused to those who enter this country the examination is notoriously inefficient; compared with it the English inspection, infinitely less cumbersome and is far more likely to disco contraband articles.

It seems amazing that such a process i countless citizens have to submit to should have been allowed to exist so long

I often make the remark that the only time I am in danger of losing my temper from the time I leave this country until I return is when I am confronted by the apparently worse than ever, that I meet absence, long or short, in other parts of the even if constitutional. PRILIP G. PRABODY.

BOSTON, September 2.

Crazes.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir? In the party promised to carry everything befor it. The violence of the wave was so great that it was short lived, and in a year o the imputation that a man had been a Know Nothing or in any way, even the slightes d with that organization was con sidered a disgrace to be vigorously repelled So thoroughly discredited was it that very shortly no trace of the organization could

it, and the greenback craze held the nation preme Court uttered in 1819 by Marshall in its grip. Then came as extraordinary a in the bank case, that its incorporation craze as any of the preceding—the silver was permitted by the Constitution because craze, the Bryan craze, was dangerous, as it led to national dishonor. Hence more sweeping should be the denunciation. Strongly as the Know Nothing and other crazes were denied by their dupes, equally strongly will the victims of the Bryan craze tax is a power to destroy. He also knew deny participation, part or parcel, in it.

The Roosevelt craze is simmering. When that Congress could not tax an instrubug comes it will sweep the recollection of the others out of sight by its tempes NEW YORK, September 3. E. T. W.

The Shell and the Pilgrim

From the London Chronicle.
It is remarkable how faithfully some of our old London customs are handed down to successive generations of youngsters. Take, for instance the custom associated with the request, "Please remember the grotto; it's only once a year Probably none of the children who have waylaid us, oyster shell in hand, during the last few days are aware that they are keeping up a custon which dates back to the medieval period, when the oyster shell was the badge of the pligrims who resorted from all parts of Christendom to the

shrine of St. James the Apostic at Compostella.

The adoption of the shell by the pilgrims is accounted for in a legend which relates that when the relics of the saint were being miraculously conveyed from Jerusalem to Spain in a ship built of marble, the horse of a Portuguese knight plunged into the sea with its rider. The knigh was rescued, and taken on board the ship, when his clothes were found covered with oyster shells —which being accepted as a sign were thence forth adopted as the pligrim's badge.

Woman Suffrage in Iceland.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The Gener. Synod of the clergy of Iceland lately assemble in the "Thingvallir." where the Partia In the "Iningvalur," where the Parliament Iceland met for hundreds of years. The Bish of Iceland presided, and the following resoluti was adopted: "The Synod affirms its full appr bation of the claim of women to equal politic

The women of Iceland have had a vote in churc affairs for many years. They also enjoy m ipal suffrage, and a quarter of the muni council of the capital city are women. President of the last Parliament spoke for wor suffrage, and every member of the Committee on Revision of the Constitution is said to favo granting full parliamentary suffrage to wo ALICE STONE BLACKWEL

The Mystery of Special Counsel

To the Editor of The Sun—Sir: Why is a necessary for the Corporation Councel, who has staff of about seventy assistants, deputy assistant staff of about seventy assistants, deputy assistants and junior assistants, to employ special counsel, whose fees for services must run into the thousands, as for instance in the defence of the city against the claim of the Edison Company for electricity furnished in 1903? It seems to be in order for the Commissioners of Accounts to investigate the legal department of our city government and find out how this array of legal talent carms its salary roll, amounting to nearly \$200 000. NEW YORK, September 3. N

Gloomy Prognostication for Labor Day.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Porecast fo Now York and Rhode Island; Unsettled weather and heavy showers on September 6, Labor Day. THOMAS HIMES, Jr., Astronomer and Astrologer. CENTRAL FALLS, R. I., September 1.

A Voice From the Shades. OVERTHERE, Sept. 8.—"It is obvious that Dr. Cook has not reached the north pole," declared the shade of John Cleves Symmes to-day. "The pole, as I proved conclusively is a bed to the WHAT WILL TAFT SAY?

es among his conservative friends over the opinions and arguments he will use in vindication or explanation of the recommendations he has made to Connial modifications promulgated after he exchanged judicial occupations at home for the exercise of worldwide power in the colonies, after his exposure to the infection of Rooseveltism by Cabinet association and after he had for one reasonanother been saddled with "my policies"? The most alarming of those recommendations concern taxation by Congrees and are contained in the special message of June 16. The opinion therein expressed that the tariff must be revised and an adequate income secured, qualified as it was by an intimation that such an income could not be had by import duties and therefore a "graduated" tax must be adopted, was the primal source of subsequent party troubles. The inevitable tendency of such death taxes is to siphon into the national treasury invested capital which private industries need.

Lawyers in attendance on the recen ntion in this city felt that had those who controlled the last session of Congress been so minded ample revenue could have been obtained from tariff schedules framed on the lines prescribed by the Chicago platform.

When several of the States would not tolerate a surrender of death taxes to Congress, and threatened so to instruct their Senators, the President's proposition fell like an aeroplane fractured in midair. Then the President's opposition in the Senate had its innings with an unapportioned general income tax to meet the deficit likely to flow from the new Republican tariff.

The President told Congress that it should have the power to enact such an income tax, but he objected to the enactment at that time. He had not considered an amendment of the Constitution necessary to the exercise of "certain phases of this power," but further consideration had satisfied him that it was needed for exercise of the power "to its full extent." accept the Supreme Court decision of like that. 1895, and then nullify it by an amendment of the Constitution. He wrote to Congress that he was satisfied "a great majority of the people" (not the Legislatures of threefourths of the States) would approve that

As an additional manœuvre to head off an unapportioned general income tax Mr. Taft recommended an excise tax on State corporations, which he said the Supreme Court had left open to Congress, and which "accomplishes," he added, "the same purpose as a corporation income tax." His opinion was that the tax he urged would be a tax "on privilege, and not a direct tax on property." A merit of his excise tax would be, he went on to say, that thereby would come Federal supervision over "the business transactions of all corporations." That motive would in the view of lawyers recently when I return to my own country after an in this city make the tax a dishonest tax

The President's plan for Congress tax the "privilege" or franchise of an instrumentality of a State was jettisoned by the Senate Finance Committee, and in place of it was taken on board a plan to every corporation equivalent to a certain percentage upon the entire net income over \$5,000.

It is a profound mystery how, a lawye of the high repute which Mr. Taft had when he left the Federal bench could have given advice to Congress to tax an agency of a State unless he felt constrained as an executor of the nationalism of his immeningly carrying everything before miliar with the famous opinion of the Suwhich swept like a whirlwind. This it was an instrumentality of the Federal Government in the discharge of fiscal functions, and taxation of one of the bank's branches by Maryland was forbidden by the Constitution because a power to of repeated decisions by the same court mentality of a State any more than it could tax an agent of Congress.

It may be that the Supreme Court, following its decisions in the Thomas stamp tax case and in the Spreckels case, both given on the same day of 1904, wil declare the corporation tax of the last session of Congress an excise tax that need not be apportioned, but such decision will not make it any the less repugnant to the Constitution if it taxes an instrumentality of a State or if it violates the requirement, in an indirect tax, of equality impartiality and uniformity.

All taxes which the Constitution per mits Congress to lay must if direct be apportioned among the States, or if indirect must be uniform. An excise tax is an indirect tax. It stands to common sense that a tax is not equal, impartial and uniform if it lays different rates, or exempts in one case and taxes in another, on subjects in the same field of competition and on persons engaged in the same business. A tax is not uniform that aids one person and destroys another. It would be a very uncommon sense of justice if a corporation and a partnership, a man and a wo man, a red haired man and a black haired man, a white man and a black man, or a Christian and a Jew, were engaged in precisely the same class of business and Congress were to tax one more or less than the other. It would be an intolerable usurpation of power by Congress.

The country is waiting to hear what the President will have to say on those phases of his corporation tax, as well as on his recommendation that the States surrender to Congress the power to lay an unapportioned tax on incomes derived from the rent of real estate and investe property. One reason therefor that he gave to Congress was that such a power may be "indispensable to the nation's life in a great crisis"; but the proposed amendment is not limited to such a crisis. On the bontrary, it gives to any President, a Roosevelt, a Bryan, or a Debs-having a bare majority of Congress on his sidethe power to inflict the tax at any time and for any partisan or sections socialistic purpose. Can President Taft think that wise and expedient?

The existing Constitution confers on Congress power in case of emergency to demand from each State its prescribed quota of any total sum of direct taxes. with an alternative of enforcing payment in each State if it refuses. If the Constitution shall be amended as he has proposed, can the President doubt that it will end in making of the present Union a consolidated empire like, for example Russia, France, or the British kingdom? A general income tax, with no exemptions and not graduated, may be an ideal tax

for Michigan or New York, as single States; but if Congress shall have surrent power over incomes in the States TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: As Congress will be paramount, each State the time draws nearer when the President must give way to it and take only what is to begin his long journey, solicitude

Congress does not take. Can two such powers of direct taxation long exist It will be with intense solicitude that conservative men, who are profoundly noere in wishing well to the President will await what he has to say to the States west of the Mississippi on the schen taxation he has urged Congress and the

country to put in execution. Will he on cond thought advise a meddling with and altering in that relation of the Constitution under which there is such abounding prosperity that has carried the United States triumphantly through three foreign wars and one domestic convulsion and has projected State berond State, thirteen to forty-six, from the Alleghanies to the Pacific, like star beyond star in the firmament above them? Will he not urge the new States in the West, now sovereign, each of them, as the Supreme Court has defined their sovereignty, to stand by the decisions of the court that was so relied upon by the framers of the Constitution, and not atempt to annul any of them by amending the fundamental law as that tribunal has interpreted it? DELEGATE. DETROIT, Mich., September 1.

PENALIZING AT REIMS.

Conditions Prescribed by the Manage ment a Source of Mystification. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: though I could hardly pass for a "sport" take the keenest interest in aviation and I

was delighted to read of the triumph of Curties the American at Reims. I was also delighted to hear that those logical Frenchmen had added five minutes to the time it took him to cover the air course. To quote:

Curtiss went out for the speed prize at 3:30 an ered eighteen miles in 24 minutes 15 1-5 sec on Sunday and Tuesday in the same race. his official time became 27 minutes 51 2-5 seconds. Then the committee discovered that he was driven the committee discovered the committee dis ing a different aeroplane from the one he used 29 minutes 11 2-5 seconds.

If Curtiss had not shown up at all the day of the race I suppose that they would (quite rightly) have made his official Therefore he said it would be "wiser" to time 2 hours and 45 minutes, or something

While all this is logical I would like While all this is logical. I would like to suggest that instead of figuring in time they should have figured in height. We will say that Curtiss actually files 500 feet into the air, beating all competitors for a certain day, but that contestants are "penalized" a hundred feet deduction for every day in which they have falled to contest. There have been contests on succeeding days and Curtiss has not been present; therefore the judges deduct 500 feet from his elevation, and we find that Curtiss, although he has actually flown higher than any of his competitors, has "officially" not left the ground.

though he has actually flown higher than any of his competitors, has "officially" not left the ground.

These "handicaps" always strike a layman as logic carried to attenuation.

In a life saving contest A, B and C jump into the water and save a child each, while D saves twins, but owing to the fact that D has not been present at the previous contests he is officially shown not to have saved the twins, who are therefore dead, and ought to be buried. And the French are logical!

Charles Battell Loomis.

Leonia, N. J., September 3.

CHURCH STATISTICS.

dembers and Property of Expanding

eets of a United States Census statistician of the division of population, informs us that the church members in the United States in 1903 numbered nearly thirty-three millions middle of the last century a political wave lay an excise tax on the "business" of (\$2.936.445); that the sum of \$1.20.000.000 was protest from the American Government. invested in church edifices; that every day eight it is hardly probable that the attempt new churches sent their spires skyward; that to revive the Isle of Pines question is in males formed considerably less than half the total church membership; that a larger percentwere members; that in sixteen States the malority of the total church membership was Roman members reported for the country 61.6 per cent were Protestants and 36.7 per cent. Roman Catho-lics. This is the first time that United States diate predecessor in office. He was fa- Census statistics of church membership by sex less. A few years ago Mr. Root said: have been collected—resulting in a showing of 43.1 Roman Catholic 49.3 per cent. of the total member

Of the 32,935,445 church members 20,287,742 Will." are Protestants and 12.079.142 are Roman Catholics. Of the Protestant bodies the Methodists numbered .5.749,838; the Baptists, 5,862,234; the Lutherans, 2,112,494; the Presbyterlans, 1,830,555

The rate of increase since 1890-sixteen yearsis 93.5 per cent. for the Roman Catholic Church (all Catholic children being church members from baptism), or more than twice that for all the Protestant bodies combined. The Methodists have 17.5 per cent. of all Protestant church mem-bers and the Baptists 17.2 per cent. Fewer males than females were found among

the Latter Day Saints (Mormons), the Lutherans, Disciples, Methodists, Baptists Preshyterians and Protestant Episcopallans. Among the Chris tian Scientists only 27.5 per cent, of the members were males, and of the Shakers but 21.3 per cent. Church members in 1906 formed 39.1 per cent. of our total population, as against \$2.7 per cent

Local religious organizations in 1906 numbere 212,230, a ga 212,230, a gain since 1890 of 47,079, or 28.5 per cent The Methodists lead in local church organization with 64,701; the Baptists reported 54,880; the Pres-byterians, 15,506; the Lutherans, 12,703, and the Roman Catholics, 12,482. The sixteen years increases in organizations were chiefly Pro 7.3 per cent.; Roman Catholics, 21.9 per he Jewish congregations, 23.19 per cent., and the Latter Day Saints, 38.3 per cent. The total seating capacity in 1906 was 58 536 830

an increase in sixteen years of 3.4 per cent. practically the same for both Protestants and toman Catholics and in pace with the inc In 1906 the church edifices of the country had a value of \$1,257,575,867, while the total debt was \$108,050,946, or only 8.6 per cent. of the total value, Of this debt the Protestant bodies owed \$53,301,254

and the Roman Catholics \$49,488,035. Twenty-nine States are by majority of mem-bers Protestant; sixteen Roman Catholic, and one Utah) Latter Day Saints.

Forest Service Examinations.

An examination to fill vacancies in the ranger force on 149 national forests in twenty-one States and Territories, including Alaska, will be held and Territories, including Alassa, will be need October 25 and 26. From this samination, which will be held at each forest supervisor's headquarters in the national forest States and Territories, including Arkansas, Minnesota, Michigan Charles, and Control of the Control of t gan and Florida, the most easterly States having ational forests, it is expected that 500 app

ments will be made While knowledge of field conditions 'rather while knowledge of field conditions rather than book learning is considered essential, the opportunities for those applicants with educational advantages are considerably increased. The rapid development of the national forests is making continually increasing demands upon those engaged in their management, and men with the ability to assume responsibility and serve in supervisory canacities are in demand. n supervisory capacities are in demand. Thes more responsible positions on national forests are filled by promotion from lower grades, so that any one entering as a ranger is eligible for promotion to any of the mo algher paid places, including that of forest super-

Only those men who are at least 21 years of age, not more than 40, of good character, tem-perate, and in good physical condition, are eligible to take this examination. The salary paid to

Applicants can secure information concerning the examination from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.; district foresters at Missoula, Mon.; Denver, Col.; Al-buquerque, N. M.; Ogden, Utah; San Francisco, Cal., and Portland, Ore.

Great if Premature Rejeicing. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Are we on the map? Say, we may not be able to win the pennant, but we got the pole. G. RUDOLFE.

BROOKLER, September &

A FOOLISH AWAKENING.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 3 .- For more than two years it has been generally understood that the Isle of Pines question was as dead as a door nail. In an article in the September number of the North American Review United States Senator Moses E. Clapp of Minnesota says that there seems to be a recrude interest in the political status of the Isle of Pines." The truth of the matter is that a little group of people having finan-cial interests in the island is trying to convert a dead door nail into a live wire. The persistence of this coterie is more dable than its judgment.

Although he is dealing with a national question, an issue that has been considered by the body of which he is a member and has been made the subject of a decision by the Supreme Court of the United States. Senator Clapp's article reads quite like the plea of a lawyer for his client. It is an absolutely one sided statement in which facts of controlling importance are quite ignored, while all possible emphasis is given to arguments tending to support the claims of the persons paricularly interested. He refers to the fact that the treaty of March, 1904, remains unratified, and he errs widely in assert ing that the present status is the result of the minority report submitted by the late Senator Morgan when the matter was under consideration by the Senate. Public interest in the question ceased and official action was suspended in April, 1907, when the United States Supreme Court handed down its decision in the case of Edward J. Pearcy against Nevada N. Stranahan, Collector of the Port of New York. To that decision Senator Clapp's article makes no reference, yet it was that decision and not Senator Morgan's minority report that put the Isle of Pines treaty in a pigeonhole.

Senator Clapp says that "in former times the Isle of Pines was not included in the Spanish administration of Cuba." This is indeed a surprising statement. Against it may be set the assertion of hief Justice Fuller in the Pearcy-Stranhan case that "all the world knew that it [the Isle of Pines] was an integral part of Cuba." To that may be added the specific declaration of Mr. Root as Secretary of State that "at the time of the treaty of peace which ended the war between the United States and Spain the Isle of Pines was and had been for several centuries a part of Cuba." Another opinion may be quoted, that of Mr. Taft as Secretary of War. While in Cuba in 1906 he said that it would be "absolutely impossible for the Provisional Government of Cuba, administering the affairs of the republic, to recognize for one moment that the Isle of Pines is not completely under the jurisdiction of the Provisional Government as a part of the Republic of Cuba." He added that any separation of Cuba and the Isle of Pines would be a violation of a sacred trust.

The argument of Cuban ownership of the Isle of Pines, as shown in the official attitude of the United States, was set forth by the Supreme Court by a reference to the inclusion of the island in the Cuban census of 1899, the election of delegates under American auspices to the constitutional convention, and the transfer of the island to the Palma administration in May, 1902. To that may be added the administration of the island by the Provisional Government from 1907 to 1909 and its inclusion for a second time in a sulfetin prepared by William C. Hunt, chief census taken under American authority, to say nothing of its representation in Cuba's Congress for four years without

any way connected with what looks like an organized campaign of criticism and condemnation of the Cuban Government; but the best that could happen for Cuba atholic, but that of the grand total of church and for the United States would be the suppression of both movements. The Isle of Pines movement is utterly hopeper cent. males and 56.9 per cent. females. The per consent to give up the Isle of Pines, Protestant record is 39.3 per cent. males and the and that the United States will never try to compel her to give it up against he This was written to a member of the group now engaged in trying to reopen a properly settled case, and it is as true to-day as it was when the words were

penned. No sympathy need be wasted on the alleged victims of official injustice. All except a few of them invested their money with full knowledge that the political status was in question until the drafting of the treaty in 190s, and all who bought land after that date should have known or might have known that the island was not and would not become American territory.

A NEW SOCIETY.

A Food Reformer Proposes a Revival of an Old Institution.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: There has been considerable mud throwing and many sour-rilous remarks have been made by an ignorant rilous remarks have been made by an ignorant and reptile press against the ancient and honored institution of cannibalism. As a principle of political economy it is entitled to the highest respect. As a social function which brings together and unites by a common sympathy all classes of society it is altogether admirable. It is to be remarked that in the lands where this method of amelioration exists there are no old folks' homes, no establishments for the protection of the insane and the imbedie, no hospitals, no almosphere. The body social has simpler and almshouses. The body social has simpler and cheaper methods of caring for the aged and

I desire to establish a society for the propagaion and cultivation of canni It will not only decrease taxation but will rid an ignorant and victous proletariat of many buriens. The obsequies of the deceased lose the corrowful aspect and assume a more cheerful and

ld man need have no fear of the workhouse. Of course I expect a strong opposition from the bigoted and grasping undertaker, but in spite of prejudice I believe and hope that when the

custom has become the law of the land we shall WERHAWEEN, N. J., September 3.

Nearer Home. From the Weekly Review of Far Rockaway and Arrerne.

Miss Sophie Loeb has left for home. What will certain young man do now?

There is a certain young woman not over a mile from the Villa Paula who has caught the work habit and is making "ties"; her friends think they will be finished about Christmas time.

Boys, have you seen the beautiful striped dresses two of our Rockaway girls made themselves? Say, boys, have you heard Miss Goldie Gottlieb sing? Well, if you haven't, you ought to. Tetras sini and Melba don't shine in comparison to this fair songster.

Miss Mildred Morris, one of Harlem's most pop-

ular girls, is with us. Geet aren't we lucky! Miss Fannie Rettmaster, who is stopping 4 Weiner's cottage, Arverne, for the summer, needs a few more pages added to her date book.

We wonder if the company that supplies the electric light to Arverne is not in league with lovers. For the number of times that the waste own is thrown at the mercy of the moon and sta

The Open Door. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Can Half Brothers of Homestead, Pa., enter the Hall to